

**The Medea Hypothesis:
Is Life on Earth Ultimately Self-Destructive?
Peter Ward**

In *The Medea Hypothesis*, renowned paleontologist **Peter Ward** proposes a revolutionary and provocative vision of life's relationship with the Earth's biosphere--one that has frightening implications for our future, yet also offers hope. Using the latest discoveries from the geological record, he argues that life might be its own worst enemy. This stands in stark contrast to

James Lovelock

's

Gaia hyp

othesis--the idea that life sustains habitable conditions on Earth. In answer to

Gaia

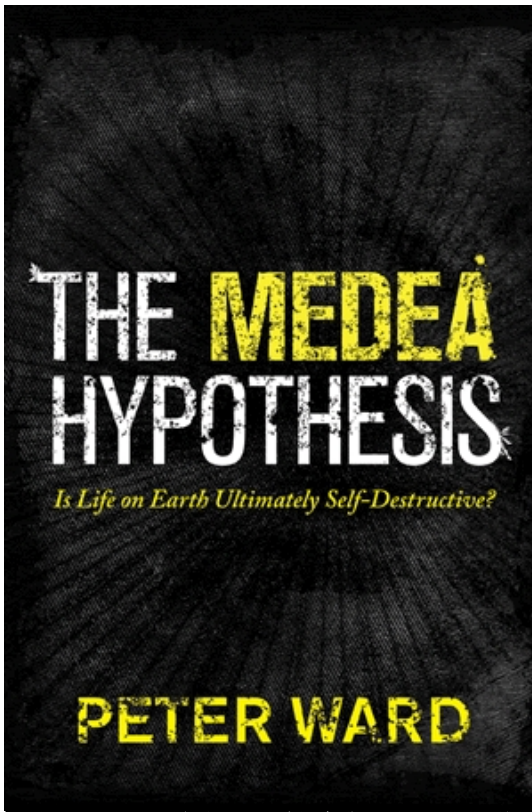
, which draws on the idea of the "

good mother

" who nurtures life, Ward invokes

Medea

, the mythical mother who killed her own children. Could life by its very nature threaten its own existence?



<http://www.naturalhistory.com/philosophy-of-science>